

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce C. Smith (619) 557-6963

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 21, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge Irma E. Gonzalez today sentenced MARCOS ALONZO HERNANDEZ in federal district court in San Diego to serve a prison term of 120 months for importing 164.4 (approximately 5.7 ounces) of methamphetamine into the United States from Mexico. Judge Gonzalez also ordered that HERNANDEZ serve a five-year term of supervised release after completing his term of imprisonment.

According to court documents, on September 20, 2004, HERNANDEZ was encountered at the Otay Mesa, California, Port of Entry, by U. S. Customs and Border Protection officers as he returned from Mexico. A border officer found the methamphetamine secreted upon HERNANDEZ' person. The methamphetamine was evaluated by a Drug Enforcement Administration forensic chemist and determined to be 70% pure. Therefore, HERNANDEZ possessed the equivalent of 115 grams of pure methamphetamine. A trial jury heard the evidence and, on July 27, 2005, found HERNANDEZ guilty of both importation of methamphetamine, and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute.

DEFENDANT

MARCOS ALONZO HERNANDEZ

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952 & 960 (Importation of 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance); and

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) (Possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of pure methamphetamine, a Schedule II Controlled Substance)

Maximum Penalty: Life in prison as to each count; 10 years minimum mandatory prison sentence as to each count; and a \$4,000,000 fine as to each count.

AGENCIES

Customs & Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Drug Enforcement Administration (Southwest Regional Laboratory)